

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are now pending in this application, new Claims 18-37 having been added by the foregoing amendment. It is noted that the claims as originally submitted previously included two Claims 16. This oversight has now been corrected, and the second of the two Claims 16 has been renumbered as Claim 17, as suggested in the Office Action.

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of all of Claims 1 through 16. In particular, the latter claims would be allowable, subject only to resolution of certain formal issues cited by the Examiner in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action. By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended the claims in a manner which addresses and is believed to resolve all outstanding formal issues. Accordingly, Claims 1 through 16 are now believed to be allowable.

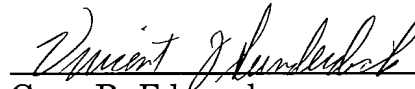
In addition, Applicants have added new Claims 18 through 37, including independent Claims 18 and 30. The latter claims, which were allowed in the European proceedings, are believed to be allowable for the same reasons that Claims 1 through 16 are allowable.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general,

a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3036/49863).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vincent J. Sunderdick", is written over a horizontal line.

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